

A free and independent press is essential to the functioning of democracy. The current trend toward consolidation of media ownership is a serious threat to that independence. As the Supreme Court found in 1945 (*Associated Press v. U. S.*), media outlets are not exempt from anti-trust regulations. Eliminating rules regulating ownership of media outlets makes a mockery of anti-trust legislation and will ultimately result in a considerably less free press. I strongly urge you to maintain government regulation of media ownership.